

"Make the ordinary extraordinary."
Pope John Paul II

A Pilgrim People

Do you recall the Holy Year of 1974-1975? That was one of the regular holy years which popes proclaim every quarter century.

Sometimes the popes also proclaim special holy years. Thus, Pope John Paul II has set aside as a special holy year the period from the Annunciation 1983 to Easter 1984. He has done so to commemorate thoughtfully and gratefully the 1950th anniversary of our Redemption through Christ's death and resurrection: "Open the doors," he says, "to the Redeemer!"

Just what is the aim of any "holy year?" They are periods during which the Holy Father calls out to all of us: "Repent of your sins. Return to God. Be reconciled with your neighbor. Celebrate love!"

In Old Testament days, the Israelite had similar periods (Leviticus 25). Every 50th year was set aside as a 12-month of homecoming, of pardon, of liberation. The Israelite holy year was inaugurated

by a blast on a yobel (ram's horn). That is why holy years are also called jubilees.

Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian jubilee in 1300. He intended that it be repeated every hundredth year thereafter. Actually, holy years became so popular among Catholics that the popes eventually set the interval at 25 years.

They became popular in large part because they involved devotional group pilgrimages. Most human beings find a pilgrimage spiritually consoling. Hindus visit and bathe in the River Ganges. Moslems make the long trek to Mecca. For centuries Christians, too, have journeyed to the Holy Land, to Rome, or to countless shrines. As Vatican II has reminded us, we are "a pilgrim people." Travel to attend a holy rite or to pray together at a holy place becomes for us a symbol of change of heart; an expression of our awareness that "here we have no lasting city; we are seeking one which is to come." (Hebrews 13:14).

A Unique Jubilee

This holy year announced by Pope John Paul on Jan. 31, 1983, takes a unique approach.

Jubilees usually require a pilgrimage to Rome. Rome welcomes us as pilgrims this year, too, if we can arrange it. But the Pope wants the Holy Year of the Redemption to be basically a "grassroots" celebration. In our own parishes, in our own dioceses, we are all invited to reflect on what Christ's redemption means in our own lives.

As we shall explain below, those who intend to make the jubilee must fulfill certain traditional requirements. They are to make an individual confession to a priest and receive Holy Communion; take part in a special holy year public service or make a special pilgrimage; and pray for the special intentions of the Holy Father.

But all this is just a beginning, Pope John Paul tells us.

It is quite clear that he wants us to make more frequent use of the sacrament of penance. (How often of late

have we humbly confessed our sins to a priest?)

It is quite clear that he wants us to see in Christ's cross a constant reminder of the impact of sin on our lives. (How often of late have we frankly examined our consciences?)

It is quite clear that he wants us to rediscover those touching Catholic practices, commended by Vatican II, that vividly recall our Redemption. The Sacramentals, for instance (like holy water, symbol of our baptism). Or popular devotions (like the Stations of the Cross which lead us to Calvary with Christ; or the rosary, whose mysteries summarize the whole Redemption).

What the Pope hopes for, in other words, is that this year the faithful of every parish will rise from the level of the ten commandments to the higher level of the eight beatitudes and will make this a twelve month of intense spirituality. He urges us to live "an ordinary year in an extraordinary way."

This is the challenge of Jubilee 1983-1984!

Holy Year

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Holy Family, 85 North St., Auburn.

Tompkins-Tioga Region: St. James the Apostle, 17 Whig St., Trumansburg.

Livingston Region: St. Rose, 1985 Lake Ave., Lima.

Steuben Region: St. Vincent de Paul, Dodge Avenue and Ellicott Street, Corning.

Chemung-Schuyler Region: Dominican Monastery, Elmira.

Pope John Paul II stated that those physically unable to take a pilgrimage journey may make their jubilee visits to their parish churches, praying there for his special intentions. Cloistered men and women religious may make their visits to their own monastery chapels. The sick, those in nursing homes and those in prisons may gain the jubilee by joining in spirit with their family or parish pilgrimage, "offering their prayers and sufferings to God."

Special pilgrimage feasts also have been established:

All Sundays during the Holy Year.

June 22 -- Feast of St. John Fisher.

July 14 -- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Sept. 14 -- Triumph of the Cross.

Oct. 7 -- Our Lady of the Rosary (celebration).

Oct. 19 -- Isaac Jogues and Companions.

Nov. 3 -- St. Martin De Porres.

Dec. 12 -- Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Jan. 25 -- Conversion of St. Paul (celebration).

March 19 -- St. Joseph.

To "make the jubilee" and receive the pope's "gift of the plenary indulgence" all of the following norms must be fulfilled by Easter Sunday 1984:

A. Take part in a public act of jubilee devotion either by

participating in one of the special "community celebrations" at times and places to be announced or by participation in a pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Cathedral or some other designated church or chapel of pilgrimage.

B. Confess sins individually to a priest, meanwhile renewing in the heart a detestation of all sin.

C. Receive Holy Commu-

nion, a special "jubilee" sharing in the Holy Eucharist.

D. Pray for the Holy Father's intentions. The pope's stated intentions for 1983-84 are 1. that our redemption by Christ may be proclaimed to all human beings and 2. that in every nation all who believe in Christ as Redeemer may be able freely to profess their faith."

E. Have the general intention of gaining the jubilee indulgence. This precious gift of the pope completes the "great pardon" by remitting all the "temporal penalty" we owe to God even after He has forgiven our sins.

F. Perform, if possible, an "act of mercy." The Holy Father has asked this as a proof and confirmation of our change of heart.

Bishop's Letter

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diocese, and to grow as children of God. I shall pray that all of us might benefit from this summons to pilgrimage to the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

†Matthew H. Clark
 Bishop of Rochester

P.S. I would like to invite all our diocesans to join me in the celebration of the Eucharist, inaugurating the Holy Year for our Diocese on our patronal feast day of St. John Fisher, June 22, 1983, 7:30 p.m., at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Hatch Action Promised 'Sometime in June'

Washington (NC) -- A commitment made to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to permit Senate debate on his proposed constitutional amendment on abortion will be fulfilled sometime "in June," Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) said June 5.

An aide to Baker said the next day that no precise date

for the opening of the debate had been set.

Appearing on the CBS News interview program "Face the Nation," Baker noted the commitment he had made to Hatch last September to schedule a floor debate on the amendment sometime this spring. Baker made the commitment in exchange for a decision by

Hatch to withdraw his amendment to help relieve a logjam of social issues legislation that had bogged down the Senate for more than a month.

"I owe Orrin Hatch from a commitment I made last year," said Baker, "...and I'm going to do that in June."

Baker's aide, Tom C. Griscom, said June 6 that no precise date was yet available because Baker had not yet met with Senate leaders to map legislation that the Senate must consider before its recess for the July 4 holiday.

Backers of the Hatch amendment at one point expected the amendment to be brought to the Senate floor the week of June 6, when the Senate resumed work after its Memorial Day recess. Amendment supporters later said they thought the measure might be brought to the Senate the week of June 20.

Bishop Clark

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In that same Christ we find one another and are called to serve with our hearts those who are hungry and cold and forgotten and in pain.

In Christ we experience the majesty of God and the tears of our brothers and sisters crying out for justice; In Christ we enjoy the infinite mercy of a loving Father and are called to show His mercy to all who are seek and still searching as we are.

In Christ we hear the invitation to "Come and See."

We have followed and found life everlasting. New we must tell others what we have found.

If we tell them of the God we have found we will give them strength.

If we tell them of the God we still search for we will give them hope.

And in the unsurpassable generosity of God the harvest will be a hundredfold.

Peace.

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